

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, NO
SUBJ: REACTION TO CARTER-NORDLI BILATERAL MEETING

NORWEGIAN MEDIA REPORT MAY 11 THAT PRIME MINISTER NORDLI
WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH HIS 20-MINUTE BILATERAL TUESDAY
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN LONDON.

IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS AFTER THE MEETING, MR. NORDLI
SAID: "PRESIDENT CARTER IS AN OPEN, RELAXED PERSON WHO
INVITES CONFIDENCE AND WHO APPROACHES POLITICAL PROBLEMS
FROM THE PRESPECTIVE OF A WIDE HORIZON--HE SHOWED A HIGH
DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE ISSUES WE PRESENTED, EVEN
THOUGH THEY PERHAPS COULD HAVE BEEN PERIPHERAL AND DISTANT
FOR HIM. HE HD A WAY OF MEETING US AND OUR PROBLEMS
WHICH IMMEDIATELY CREATED A BASIS OF CINFIDENCE."

IN HIS PRESS COMMENTS, MR. NORDLI SAID THAT MOST OF
THE MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO HIS PRESENTATION OF THE
GENERAL LINES OF NORWAY'S FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY
AND A MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF NORWAY'S VIEWS ON
SVALBARD AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AROUND IT. HOWEVER,
HE SAID THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION ON THESE TOPICS,
HE ALSO SAID HE BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF AMERICAN
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OIL CARGO PREFERENCE LEGISLATION.

THE NORWEGIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT AN AMERICAN
SPOKESMAN, WHO HAD FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEETING,
SAID AFTERWARD THAT PRESIDENT CARTER URGED MR. NORDLI
"TO GET IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIM IN THE WHITE HOUSE
IF ANY PROBLEMS SHOULD ARISE." THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID

MR. NORDLI MADE A VERY POSITIVE IMPRESSION ON PRESIDENT CARTER AND THAT MR. CARTER EXPRESSED THE HOPE FOR "EVEN CLOSER RELATIONS WITH NORWAY" THROUGH ESTABLISHING PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN NORWEGIAN AND AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS.

IN AN EDITORIAL ON THE MEETING, NORWAY'S LEADING DAILY, AFTENPOSTEN, SAID PRIME MINISTER NORDLI'S EMPHASIS ON THE PROBLEMS IN THE NORTH WERE BASED ON NORWAY'S VIEW THAT "IT IS USEFUL FOR ITS BIGGEST ALLY TO FOCUS SOME OF ITS ATTENTION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTH." THE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT THOSE PROBLEMS MAY TAKE A LONG TIME TO SOLVE, BUT WITH STRONG NATO BACKING, NORWAY CAN PERHAPS AFFORD TO BE PATIENT. THE CARTER-NORDLI MEETING, THE PAPER SAID, SHOULD BE "A REMINDER THAT THE PROBLEMS IN THE NORTH ARE INDEED MINOR COMPARED TO WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD NORWAY BEEN A NON-ALIGNED NATION.-
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